

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNIDO -- AHC PERSONALITIES AND THE ROLE OF GROUPS

REF: VIENNA 2328 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. A HANDFUL OF INDIVIDUAL DELEGATES AND COMMITTEE OFFICERS IMPORTANTLY INFLUENCED THE PROCEEDINGS OF AHC-III, WHOSE MOST IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN A CONTACT GROUP MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND GROUPS B AND D. END SUMMARY.

1. THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CHAIRMAN (AMB. APPAIH PATHMARAJAH-SRI LANKA) AND RAPPORTERU (EBERHAND FURTH-FRG) TO THE WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE STRATEGY FOR UNIDO (AHC) WON EXCEPTIONAL AND DESERVED NOTICE IN A SEPARATE PARA (18) OF AHC FINAL REPORT.

A. PATHMARAJAH, HIS COUNTRY'S PERM REP AT GENEVA AND AN UNCOMMONLY INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, AND KNOWLEDGEABLE EXPERT
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IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY, BEGAN HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE AHC

IN JULY 1973 AS A BETTER THAN AVERAGE CHAIRMAN, PRONE, HOWEVER, TO INTERVENE AT LENGTH AS SPOKESMAN FOR SRI LANKA. DURING THE AHC'S SECONS SESSION, HIS SPEARATE INTERVENTIONS IN HIS DUAL CAPACITY AS SRI LANKAN DELEGATE WERE LESS FREQUENT AND EXTENDED, AND HIS LDC BIAS -- USUALLY NOTICEABLE ONLY ON A SUBLIMINAL LEVEL -- WAS LESS EVIDENT; HIS DIRECTION OF AHC-II WAS SKILLED AND EFFECTIVE. AT THE AHC'S THIRD AND FINAL SESSION, PATHMARAJAH'S CONDUCT AS CHAIRMAN WAS SUPERB -- NEVER RUFFLED, CONSISTENTLY OBJECTIVE, PERSONALLY ACCESSIBLE, SUBSTANTIVELY CONSTRUCTIVE AND SEEMINGLY UNTIRING. (DURING A SOCIAL ENCOUNTER DURING AHC-III, MAB. PATHMARAJAH CONFIDED TO US HIS DESIRE TO BE APPOINTED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF THE ILO, AN ASPIRATION THAT MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO WHAT APPEARED TO US A MORE OBJECTIVE POSTURE ON THE ISSUES BEFORE AHC-III.)

B. KURTH, A RESIDENT MEMBER OF THE FRG MISSION TO UNIDO, ALSO CONTRIBUTED MIGHTILY TO AHC'S OUTCOME. DRAFTING IN ENGLISH AND WORKING OFTEN LITERALLY NIGHT AND DAY, HE UNDERTOOK TO SYNTHESIZE THE VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED IN COMMITTEE DEBATE INTO "TENTATIVE" AND THEN "EMERGING CONCLUSIONS," WHICH IN TURN PROVIDED THE CRUCIAL BASIS ON WHICH ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE. DESPITE THE DIVERSITY OF VIEWS AND HIS FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH GROUP B, HE CONSTRUCTED THESE SYNTHESSES SO ADROITLY THAT HE WON A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE FORM ALL GROUPS. FOR BONN-- KURTH WILL BE RETURNING TO BONN AROUND JUNE 1 TO BECOME HEAD OF THE REFERAT IN ECON COOPERATION MINISTRY CONCERNED WITH UNIDO AND MUCH OF OTHER UN ECON DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY. COMPETENT, LEVELHEADED, FLUENT IN ENGLISH, FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. IN GENERAL AND A CLOSE COLLABORATOR WITH THIS MISSION, BONN WILL FIND HIM A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HELPFUL CONTACT.

2. AMONG OTHER PERSONALITIES WHO PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLES WERE:

A. INDIAN AMBASSADOR JAIPAL -- DEPARTING SHORTLY TO BECOME PERM REP AT NEW YORK (VIENNA 1566), JAIPAL WAS MAJOR FACTOR IN DISCOURAGING MORE EXTREME GROUP OF 77 POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH AS ONE OF DESIGNATED SPOKESMEN FOR GROUP OF 77, HE FREQUENTLY TOOK PUBLIC POSITIONS MORE SEVERE THAN HIS (OR GO'S) ACTUAL POSITION. HOWEVER, ALMOST ALL SIGNIFICANT FINAL COMPROMISES OVER DISPUTED ISSUES WERE EITHER PORPOSED BY HIM OR ARRIVED AT IN CONSULTATION WITH HIM.

B. NIGERIAN DEL B. AWOKAYA -- IN SHORT, AHC SUCCEEDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN SPITE OF HIM. SOCIALLY POLITE AND AMIABLE TO POINT OF DEFERENCE, HIS ASSIGNMENT AS COUNSELOR OF NIGERIAN MISSION TO INTL ORGS AT GENEVA HAS IMBUEH HIM WITH SPIRIT OF UNCTAD IN ITS MOST VIRULENT FORM. SUSPICIOUS OF ANY PROPOSAL ORIGINATING OUTSIDE OF GROUP OF 77, HE OVER-PARTICIPATES DISPUTATIOLUSLY IN DEBATE, FREQUENTLY MISSES OR MISUNDERSTANDS INTERVENTIONS OF OTHERES, AND WHILE BRIGHT AND USUALLY SUBSTANTIVELY UP-TO-SPEED, HE DOES NOT SEEM TOO HIGHLY GIFTED IN ANALYTIC OR LOGICAL ABILITY.

C. BRAZILIAN DELEGATE ALVARO GURGEL DE ALENCAR -- FIRST SECRY OF BRAZILIAN MISSION AT GENEVA AND APPEARING FOR FIRST TIME AT AHC MEETINGS, HE IMPRESSED US AS WELL-INFORMED IN THE FIELD OF UN ECON DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, REASONABLE AND INTELLIGENT. HIS LOW-KEY, SENSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS GENERALLY PROVED CONSTRUCTIVE.

D. UK DELEGATE F. JACKSON -- UK PERM REP AT VIENNA. -- ACTED AS GROUP B CHAIRMAN AND SHARED ROLE OF SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP B IN CONTACT GRUOPS WITH US DEL, MORE BECAUSE OF HIS USUALLY PLEASANT ASSERTIVENESS AND CONTITUTIONAL ENJOYMENT OF CONFERENCEMANSHIP THAN BECAUSE OF ANY SPECIAL UK ROLE IN UNIDO AFFAIRS. AN UNUSUALLY SKILLED WORDSMITH, HE OCCASIONALLY BECAME MORE INTERESTED IN THE PROCESS OF REACHING A NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT THAN IN THE SUBSTANCE THEREOF.

E. BULGARIAN DEL EVLOGNY BONEV -- SERVING AS HEAD OF BULGARIAN DELEGATION TO UNIDO MEETING FOR FIRST TIME AT AHC-III, HE STRUCK US AS MORE FLEXIBLE AND FORTHCOMING ON CONFERENCE ISSUES THAN OUR USUAL EXPERIENCE WITH USSR AND BULGARINA DELEGATES. HIS RELATIVE FLUENCY IN ENGLISH (ALL HIS INTERVENTIONS, INCLUDING EXTEMPORIZED ONES, WERE IN ENGLISH) MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HIS FREQUENTLY SPEAKING FOR GROUP D.

3. THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF AHC MOST OF THE WORK WAS CONDUCTED ON A GROUP BASIS, I.E., GROUP OF 77, GROUP B AND GROUP D, WITH MUCH TIME DEVOTED TO INTRA-GROUP CONSULTATION.

A. AS HAS BECOME CUSTOMARY AT UN MEETINGS, GROUP OF 77 REQUIRED CONSIDERABLY MORE TIME FOR ITS CONSULTATIONS THAN THE OTHERES. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, GROUP OF 77 MEMBERS ADHERED PUBLICLY TO POSITIONS ARRIVED AT WITHIN THEIR GROUP, AND EVEN THE "EXTREMISTS" EVENTUALLY SUPPORTED COMPROMISES NEGOTIATED IN GROUP OF 77'S BEHALF BY ITS RECOGNIZED REPRESENTATIVES.

B. GROUP D UNSURPRISINGLY APPEARED HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING SOLIDARITY AND AS HAS BECOME CUSTOMARY SUPPORTED GROUP OF 77 ON ALMOST ALL CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, EXCEPT THOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARRYING SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. INTERESTINGLY AT OUTSET OF AHC-III, SOCIALISTS (APPARENTLY AT INITIATIVE OF BULGARIAN) APPROACHED GROUP B FOR "INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS" ON PROPOSES B GROUP AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT AHC CONCLUSIONS WHICH HAD EMERGED FROM AHC-II. TIME DID NOT PERMIT CONSULTING ON MORE THAN A FEW OF OUR PROPOSALS, BUT WITH EXCEPTION OF SOME MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED BY SOCIALISTS, WHICH WE HAD NO DIFFICULTY ACCEPTING, THEY INDICATED APPROVAL OF OUR AMENDMENTS. IN PARTICULAR THEY SUPPORTED OUR EFFORTS RELATE UNIDO STUDIES AND RESEARCH TO UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING AND GENERAL HEIGHTENED EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION; HOWEVER, WHEN WE RAN INTO LDC RESISTANCE THEIR SUPPORT WAS AT BEST HALF-HEARTED.

C. GROUP B TENDED BE SUBSTANTIVELY DOMINATED BY U.S., UK AND FRG, WITH OTHERS DEFERRING TO OUTCOME OF OUR EXCHANGES. WHILE CONSIDERABLE IDENTITY OF VIEW EXISTED WITHIN GROUP B, THE

GROUP MANIFESTED LESS CONSCIOUS SOLIDARITY THAN GROUP OF
77 OR GROUP D. WHILE SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES IN B GROUP
POSITIONS WERE RARELY PUBLICLY EVIDENT, IN PART BECAUSE CERTAIN
POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUES WERE ADDRESSED AT A LEVEL OF GENERALITY,
THE POTENTIAL FOR A BREAK IN SOLIDARITY IS GREAT WHEN IN FUTURE
MEETINGS SUCH ISSUES AS INCREASED FINANCIAL RESOURCES OR UNIDO
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE TAKEN UP. ON BALANCE, US ACHIEVED
MORE AT AHC WORKING AS PART OF GROUP B THAN WE COULD HAVE
WITHOUT REFERENCE TO GROUP B. STIBRAVY

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